

### Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Independent claims 1, 8, 10, 28 and 35-37 have been amended for clarity. Claims 7, 32 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103***

Independent claims 1, 16, 19 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,593,957 ("Christie") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,282 ("DeGroof").

Further, independent claims 8, 10, 28, 35 and 37 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie in view of DeGroof and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,995,718 ("Jachimowicz").

It is respectfully requested that these rejections should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Each of independent claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 19, 28, 35, 36 and 37, as amended for clarity, or as previously presented, recites a display system or display method that includes a pair of displays at an obtuse angle to each other and a beam splitter positioned relative to the two displays at the bisectrix of the obtuse angle to combine images from the displays, wherein the displays each output polarized light incident on the beam splitter where the polarization of the light incident on the beam splitter from each display is along the same direction or the polarization for both displays is circular in the same sense.<sup>1</sup>

Christie fails to disclose the claimed display systems and display methods including a pair of displays wherein polarization of light incident on the beam splitter from each display is along the same direction. Rather, as pointed out in the Office

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., amended claim 10.

Action,<sup>2</sup> Christie has been found to disclose a pair of displays having orthogonal polarization. For example, at col. 9, lines 13-14, Christie discloses that "output polarizers of image LCDs 205r, 205l are oriented in **orthogonal directions**." (Emphasis added). Disclosure of displays having orthogonal polarization is insufficient to support a rejection of displays where polarization is the same or displays wherein polarization of light incident on the beam splitter from each display is along the same direction.

In this regard, the Office Action seems to equate "orthogonal" polarization with the same polarization or polarization in the same direction. Clearly, this is not the case. For example, on page 4, the Office Action asserts "Christie teaches the displays each have a polarized light output (col. 9, lines 13-14), the polarization for both displays being the same (both output polarizations of the image LCDs are in orthogonal directions." Similar assertions are made in the Office Action at the bottom of page 14. Clearly the ordinary meaning of orthogonal is a relationship between two things that are at a right angle or perpendicular to one another. For example, when first and second displays have orthogonal polarization, the polarization of the first display is crossed by 90 degrees relative to the second display - not in the same direction (or in the same sense in the case of circular polarization), as is recited in the various pending claims.

For at least this reason, the rejections of independent claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 19, 28, 35, 36 and 37, as well as their respective dependent claims, should be withdrawn because they are unsupported by the primary reference.

In addition, neither DeGroof nor Jachimowicz have been found to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Christie with respect to the pending independent claims.

Like Christie, DeGroof discloses a pair of displays having orthogonal polarizations (having polarizations that are crossed by 90 degrees, e.g., horizontal polarization and vertical polarization). At col. 2, lines 32-40 (reproduced below), DeGroof discloses displays having orthogonal polarizations.

A semi-transparent mirror 5 is disposed so that it bisects the angle between the LCDs. The light depicting the image for one eye emitted by one LCD is polarized at 90.degree. to the light depicting the other image for the other eye emitted by the other LCD. For example, the light emitted by LCD 3 is intended for viewing by the right eye of the user,

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Office Action at page 4 and page 14.

and is horizontally polarized. The light emitted by LCD 1 is intended for viewing by the left eye of the user, and is vertically polarized.

DeGroof, col. 2, lines 32-40.

Similarly, Jachimowicz fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Christie and DeGroof, taken alone or in combination, with respect to the independent claims discussed above. At col. 2, lines 37-43 discusses displays arranged and bisected by a beam splitter where the displays have "S" polarization and "P" polarization that are orthogonal.

For at least these additional reasons, the rejections of independent claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 19, 28, 35, 36 and 37, as well as their respective dependent claims, should be withdrawn.

The respective dependent claims, while reciting further features, are not being independently discussed inasmuch as they are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. This absence of any comment regarding the dependent claims, however, should not be construed as an acquiescence to the contentions made in the Office Action.

Independent claim 24 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,485 ("Ohtani"). It is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Claim 24 recites a display system that includes a first display having optical polarization characteristics, a second display smaller in area than the first display and having optical polarization characteristics, the second display being at an angle to the first display and a beam splitter at the bisectrix of the angle between the first and second displays. FIG. 16 of the present application (reproduced below) shows an exemplary depiction of the display system recited in claim 24.

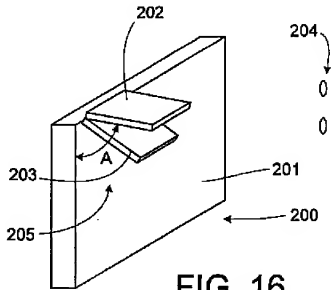
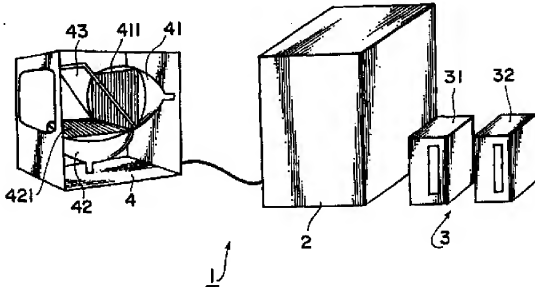


FIG. 16

The Office Action now realizes that Christie fails to disclose the claimed display system, including a first display having optical polarization characteristics and a second display smaller in area than the first display. The Office Action now turns to Ohtani to cure the deficiencies of Christie with respect to claim 24. However, it is respectfully submitted that Ohtani fails to cure the deficiencies of Christie with respect to claim 24 because Ohtani fails to disclose the claimed display system including a first display

having optical polarization characteristics and a second display smaller in area than the first display. Rather, Ohtani has been found to disclose a pair of displays that are the same size. For example, FIG. 1 of Ohtani (reproduced below) shows display 41 and display 42 being of the same size.<sup>3</sup>



At col. 3, line 64 - col. 4, line 4, Ohtani appears to describe display 41 and display 42 each having a main screen 411 and a sub screen 412 (not shown in FIG. 1). This disclosure, when viewed in connection with FIG. 1, appears to describe two displays (41) and (42) that are of the same size, where each display is used to display multiple images (on the main display space and on the sub display space of each display). As such, Ohtani fails to disclose the display system arranged as claimed claim 24 (see, for example, FIG. 16 above).

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 24 and the corresponding dependent claims should be withdrawn.

<sup>3</sup> Ohtani also discloses the displays 41 and 42 having orthogonal polarization characteristics. See, e.g., col. 3, lines 26-36.

The respective dependent claims, while reciting further features, are not being independently discussed inasmuch as they are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. This absence of any comment regarding the dependent claims, however, should not be construed as an acquiescence to the contentions made in the Office Action.

***Telephone Correspondence***

In the interests of advancing this application to allowance and compact prosecution, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss any of the foregoing with which there may be some controversy or confusion or to make any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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